The Gopnik Guide

Do you smoke? Do you drink? Are you prepared to open your beer bottles with nothing but an iron railing or a cigarette lighter every time? Are you prepared to only drink cheap, shitty booze? Do you know how to curse after literally every word? Are you ready to adopt a very specific and silly style of dress? Do you think you'll be able to never, ever bring up anything even remotely intelligent in a conversation with absolutely anyone?

If you said "yes" to at least most of these questions, you're ready.

You will also have to become a pack animal. Gopniks are rarely seen by their lonesome; they're always in packs. You will always respect the choices and views of your bratukhi, unless they cross over into bespredel or lokh territory. There is a tender balance between loyalty to your koresha and loyalty to the patsan principles that has to be maintained, and that, bratukha, is no easy task.

The first and foremost I explained already: koresha and are above everything else unless they go astray. Koreshá (sing. kóresh) means "your bests friends with whom you've been to hell and back". Bratúkhi (sing. bratúkha) is derived from the word "brat", brother; In Spanish it would be something like "hermanito". These terms refer to the same group of people. Unless they go all bespredel, in which case they aren't your bratukhi anymore.

Bespredél is the state of total disobedience towards the Patsan Code (or "poñátiya", lit. "terms, rules"). Mostly refers to doing whatever the hell you want. For example, it is bespredel to mug, rob, or anyone for no real reason; you have to fabricate a reason first.

If you see a lokh ("commoner, easy prey, civilian"), you have to walk up to him and introduce yourself, get him to introduce yourself to you. If you want his cellphone, you ask him if he has one; if he says he doesn't, you say: "and what if I find one?". At this point he'll back down and admit that he does have a cellphone, and you have a casus belli for taking whatever you want by force: he lied to you. If you want his money, you ask him for some. If he says he has none, repeat Operation Cellphone. If he really doesn't have any, let him go. Basically, the trick is to make him do something dishonorable to you, e.g. lie to you, try to weasel out, refuse to help you out (which is

considered a felony in the Patsan Code because you know each other’s' names, ergo you're now acquaintances). The methods I just described aren't the only ones - be creative, find some of your own! It has to be said, though, that it is not bespredel to steal from anything remotely reminding you of The Man (a supermarket is fair game, for example, so is any government institution). It is also bespredel to mug people outside of your neighborhood or mug couples (even if they're in your territory).

Having done time is an honor in a gopnik community. It makes you much more respectable. When you meet a new guy and he's done time, he'll tell you that himself. This is where you ask him where he did the time and whom he did it with. If any familiar names are mentioned, from this point on, he outranks you (unless you'd done time yourself).

However, one needs to be cautious and ask what did he do time for. There are several articles of the Criminal Code that are absolutely dishonorable.

First and foremost is rape and especially child rape, also basically every sex-related crime. Being convicted of it instantly makes you a petúkh (lit. "rooster", "a faggot, a prison queen, scum"). If the new guy turns out to be a petukh, you instantly tell him to leave, no matter whom he knows or is related to. Associating with a petukh is absolutely forbidden. If he refuses to leave, it's not bespredel to kick his ass.

"Usual" crimes like assault, robbery, breaking and entering, theft, car theft etc. are okay: the new guy will still outrank you if he's convicted of them.

The "cool" big-time crimes like murder, bank robbery, big-scale extortion, will make him outrank you so much you'll be like a private in front of a general. However, it's highly improbable that you'll ever meet anyone like that if they aren't a family member of one of a bratukha of yours or something, since gopniki are much, much too small-time for them to waste time on.

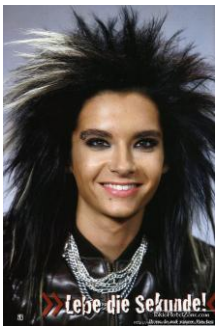
I honestly don't know much about the state of political prisoners in the eyes of today's gopniki, but in the Soviet days, they weren't very well-respected. Not petukhi, of course, but they were no koresha, either.

Also always remember your family. Your mom is, perhaps, even more important than your koresha. If she's not doing well, you have to get her money any way you can. If someone insults your mother, it's not bespredel to kick the shit out of him, even if it was one of your bratukhi. In fact, it's a breach of the Patsan Code to *not* kick his ass or at least threaten to.

Having a girlfriend or a wife is not taboo. In fact, it's even okay to love her and openly admit it to your koresha. However, you must always, always be prepared to leave her in a heartbeat if the interests of your bratukhi demand it. Also, never, ever hit on the women of your bratukhi! This is absolutely imperative. Even after one of them breaks up with his woman, she still isn't fair game for a long, long time. In fact, it's better to stop thinking of them as women as soon as they start dating your koresha.

Also, don't beat your woman for no reason that is Bespredél. Valid reasons to do that include: continued refusal of sex, cheating, refusal to do woman stuff (cleaning, mopping, cooking), making a scene, putting herself above your koresha and bratukhi.

Associating with neforá (sing. , "a member of a subculture, freak") is 100% zashkvár ("the act of tainting oneself which, in extreme cases, leads one to becoming a petukh"). You don't talk to nefor guys, you don't date nefor girls, you don't even have one night stands with them. Harassing and beating them for no reason is technically bespredel, but most gopniki choose to forget it. Same with gays and, sadly, lesbians.



Obviously, you only wear tracksuits and black jackets made of cheap leather. Preferred footwear is either knockoff Adidas sneakers ("ádiki", "abibás") or cheap costume shoes. An útka (a hat like the one the guy in the first picture) is a bit outdated, but would be a welcome addition, as well.

Also, learn to squat first. You can't become a Gopnik without being able to slavsquat properly, or their god won't hear you.

Oh, and there's something important I forgot to add: you can't stay a gopnik forever. After about the age of 25 you're supposed to either get a small group of very trusted koresha, form a brigáda (crew) and move up to more serious crimes, or simply stop being a gopnik and become a regular old bydlo alcoholic.

These are the basics. May the god of pivas and semki be with you. Remember a gopnik is a knight who has strict moral code, customs and beliefs follow them unquestionably.

Godspeed

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